

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03892 252321Z

63

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 SCCT-01 /063 W
----- 073832

P R 250845Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDVQRORITY 7324
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3892

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJECT: NDP HOLDS TWO CONVENTIONS

REF: SEOUL 3849 (DTG 241005Z MAY 76)

BEGINNRUMMARY: FOLLOWING NIGHT-LONG BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF CONVENTION HALL BETWEEN GROUPS OF TOUGHS REPRESENTING MAIN AND NON-MAINSTREAM FACTIONS, NDP SUFFERED DEFACTO SPLIT AS TWO WARRING GROUPS HELD SEPARATE CONVENTIONS, ADOPTED DIFFERING CONSTITUTIONS AND SELECTED OWN LEADERSHIP WITH EACH NOW CLAIMING CONTROL OF NDP. THERE IS LITTLE IMMEDIATE PROSPECT FOR RE-UNIFICATION. END SUMMARY?;

1. WARR NG NDP FACTIONS FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ESSENTIAL CONVENTION ISSUES, INCLUDING DELEGATE SELECTION AND NOMINATIONS FOR PARTY PRESIDENT, PRIOR TO PARTY CONVENTION MAY 25. IN ATMOSPHERE OF HEATED RECRIMINATIONS BOTHOKIM YONG-SAM AND HIS OPPONENTS HAVE ACCUSED EACH OTHER OF NEGOTIATING IN BAD FAITH. AS RESULT NON-MAINSTREAMERS FORCIBLY OCCUPIED NDP HEADQUARTERS MAY 22 AND HELD THEIR OWN CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 24 TO PROTEST KIM YONV-SAM'S HIGH HANDED OR DICTATORIALAYANDLING OF CONVENTION MATTERS (REZSEL). OOIEVE OF CONVENTION SITUATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 03892 252321Z

FURTHER DETERIORATED WHEN KIM YONG-SAM FACTION OCFPIED CONVENTION

HALL WITH APPROXIMATELY 200 TOUGHS WHO IN TURN WERE EVICTED AT ABOUT 1 A.M. BY POLICE ACTING AT REQUEST OF NON-MAINSTREAM FACTION WHICH ADVOCATES COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND OPPOSES KIM. KIM YONG-SAM GROUP AGAIN OCCUPIED HALL SHORTLY AFTER END CURFEW, BUT WHJE SOON DRIVEN OUT BY NON-MAINSTREAM ATTACK LEAVING CITIZENS' HALGIIN SHAMBLES. KIM'S OPPONENTS THEN PROCEEDED TO HOLD THEIR OWN CONVENTION IN HALL BEHIND BARRICADES MANNEBUBY MOTLEY COLLECTION OF STREET TOUGH S.

3. RUMP CONVENTION SWIFTLY PASSED CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOR COLQECTIVE LEADERSHIP OF PARTY; TASK OF SELECTING COLLECTIVE LEADERS IN NEW SUPREME COUNCIL WAS GIVEN TO REPRESENTATIVES OF KO HUNG-MUN, YI CHOL-SUNG, SIN TO-HWAN, CHONG HAE-YONG AND DR. CHONG IL-HYONG'S TUESDAY GROUP, TOGETHER WITH FORMER ASSEMBLYMEN CHO YUN-HONG, KIM SANG-HYON, CHO YON-HA, AND EX-ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIM OK-SON. THE SHOW WAS OVER BY 10) -.M.

4. AFTER BEING DRIVEN FROM CONVENTION HALL KIM YONG-SAM'S GROUP HELD SEPARATE CONVENTION AT NDP HEADQUARTERS. BEHIND PROTECTION OF 200-300 MAN YOUTH GROUP ARMED WITH CLUBS, MAINSTREAM CONVENTION SUMMARILY PASSED KIM YONG-SAM'S VERSION OF PARTY CONSTITUTION AND RE-ELECTED KIM AS NDP PRESIDENT.

5. BOTH SIDES ARE NOW CLAIMING THAT MAJORITY OF DELEGATES ATTENDED THEIR RESPECTIVE CONVENTUONS, AND EACH SIDE IS CLAIMING LEGITIMATE CONTROL OF NDP (NON-MAINSTREAM CLAIMS 372 DELEGATES AND MAINSTREAM 415 ALTHOUGH TOTAL REGISTERED WAS ONLY 712). PRESS REPORTS THAT CONFLICTING CLAIMS HAVE BEEN LODGED WITH ROKG CENTRAL ELECTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

6. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT LONG STRUGGLE FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP MEMBERS OF BOTH SIDES HAVE TOLD US THEY BELIEVED THEY COULD AVOID SPLIT IN PARTY. HOWEVER, IN PRACTICE IT APPEARS BOTH SGDES EXPECTED THEIR OPPONENTS TO BACK DOWN AND CONSEQUENTLY FORCED THE ISSUE TO THE POINT OF CREATING A DE FACTO SPLIT IN NDP. NOW WITH EACH SIDE CLAIMING LEGITIMACY, PROSPECTS FOR EARLY RRUOLUTION OF CONFLICT AND RE-UNIFICATION OF PARTY ARE NOT GOOD. MOREOVER, CONFLICTING LEGAL CLAIMS CONCERNING CONTROL OF PARTY AND PROBLEM OF REPRESENTING PARTY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD SERVE TO KEEP S QUATION IN TURMOIL FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 03892 252321Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY UNITY, POLITICAL PARTIES, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL03892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760203-0582
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760516/aaaaanmp.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SEOUL 3849
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NDP HOLDS TWO CONVENTIONS
TAGS: PINT, KS, NDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006